**Defining the lingustic, minorities**

†1724. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any fixed criteria for deciding the linguistic minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete plans have been formulated by Government for collective development of linguistic minorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of States/Union Territories where Nepali speaking people have been recognized as a linguistic minority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Linguistic minorities have not been defined in the Constitution or by any statute. They get defined when their mother tongue differs from the regional language of the area. They are identified by State Government/Union Territory on the basis of Census data.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities has reported that there is no procedure/rule for recognition of a minority language group, including Nepali, by the states/Union Territories. However, on the basis of inputs received from the various State Governments and census records, Nepali is spoken in the States of Assam, West Bengal (major language in Darjeeling District), Meghalaya , Sikkim (regional language) and Mizoram.

**Academic and housing diversity statistics**

†1725. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert committee appointed by Government has submitted its report on academic and housing diversity statistics of Sachar Committee;

(b) if so, whether the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) has given its comments on it;

(c) whether it is a fact that CSO has pointed towards various shortcomings therein and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the plan to address these shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The Expert Group appointed by the Government to recommend an appropriate 'diversity index' to promote diversity in living, educational and work spaces has submitted its report.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.